

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

5 A multilayer film including a first magnetic layer, a second magnetic layer, and a third magnetic layer in the stated order is formed so that a Curie temperature T_{C2} of the second magnetic layer is set to be lower than a Curie temperature T_{C1} of the first magnetic layer and a Curie temperature T_{C3} of the third magnetic layer and that the third magnetic layer is a perpendicular magnetization film. In at least a part of a region at a temperature lower than T_{C2} , the first magnetic layer is perpendicularly magnetized by exchange coupling with the second magnetic layer, and the magnetization of the third magnetic layer is transferred to the first magnetic layer via the second magnetic layer because of the exchange coupling. The second magnetic layer is made of a magnetic layer that remains in an in-plane magnetization state at room temperature and is perpendicularly magnetized in a temperature range from a critical temperature T_{CR} higher than room temperature to the Curie temperature T_{C2} of the same. Thus, in a magneto-optical recording medium to which the magnetic-domain enlarging-reproducing method is applied, upon reproduction of information utilizing the magnetic-domain enlargement, magnetic influences from tracks adjacent to a target track are suppressed.

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